

News From  
**SENATOR LINCOLN CHAFEE**  
**RHODE ISLAND**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: Debbie Rich**  
**401 453-5071**

**CHAFEE ANNOUNCES USDA LOAN TO BLOCK ISLAND**  
*Funds to Upgrade Water System for Fire Protection and Drinking Supply*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a Water and Waste Disposal loan in the amount of \$179,445 and a grant totaling \$384,255 for the Town of New Shoreham. The term of the loan is 40 years at 4.5 percent.

“I am pleased to hear that these USDA funds will help Block Island update its water distribution system,” said Senator Chafee. “These improvements are critical to sustain the safety of year round residents as well as the visitors who bring tourism dollars into Rhode Island’s economy.”

Chafee visited Block Island last month and met with town officials to discuss their concerns about an aging infrastructure, preserving open space and other environmental issues.

Rural Development funds will be used to replace the current 6-inch water lines with 10-inch lines to provide adequate supply in the peak season, supply water for fire protection, and loop all water lines. The existing 6-inch line cannot adequately meet current and future demands.

In addition, an emergency generator will be supplied at the water treatment plant. Currently, there is no backup source of power should the main electrical source be lost.

Previous USDA funding included a loan of \$159,500 and a grant of \$478,500 in fiscal year 2001.

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